



AETC News Clips

Randolph AFB, Texas



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Lackland puts brakes on cell phones

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Express-News Staff Writer

If you drive on Lackland AFB, it's time to turn off your cell phone or risk being grounded.

Lackland is Bexar County's first Air Force base to enforce a ban on use of cell phones while driving, a rule that's becoming common on military bases under a Pentagon directive.

The base began stopping cars and giving verbal warnings Monday.

After a 60-day grace period, military personnel, government employees and civilian visitors could be banned from driving on Lackland for up to a year if they're cited for violating the rule four times in one year, or six times in two years, said Master Sgt. Aaron Thieken.

"Right now, we are pulling people over," often to find they aren't aware of the rule, he said.

Unlike a cell phone ban initiated in October at Fort Sam Houston, an Army post, the new rule at Lackland permits the use of hands-free cell phone devices with a single earpiece.

Randolph AFB also is studying a cell phone restriction. Brooks City-Base, on city-owned land, is not considering one, a base spokesman said.

The Defense Department approved restrictions on cell phone use for motorists last year, leaving the military services and individual bases to decide when and how to enforce the rules. The restrictions followed a study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that found cell phone use was a growing cause of accidents.

At Fort Sam Houston, 56 citations have been given over the past four months, post spokesman Phil Reidinger said. Though the post commander could ban a repeat violator from driving there, no one has yet lost driving privileges. Supervisors and commanders are notified when government or military personnel are cited.

Reidinger said the rule has generally been well-received.

Hands-free devices don't fully prevent accidents, because they allow motorists to have a conversation when they should focus on driving, he said.

"All you have to do is pull over" to talk on a cell phone, he added. "That's what I do."

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Air Force Times



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2,134 captains earn promotion to 0-4

By [Rod Hafemeister](#)

Times staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — Air Force leaders will give good news to 2,134 captains Thursday: They've earned the gold oak leaf.

Those are the results of the promotion board that convened Dec. 5, which will be released worldwide at 9 a.m. Thursday Central Standard Time.

All told, the board considered 2,759 line, Chaplain, Judge Advocate General and Biomedical Sciences Corps captains for promotion to major, with the following results:

- Line — 1,901 selected from 2,057 in the promotion zone (IPZ) considered, a 92.4 percent select rate; 54 selected from 484 above the promotion zone (APZ) considered, a 11.2 percent select rate.
- Chaplain — 18 selected from 28 IPZ considered, a 64.3 percent select rate; three selected from six APZ considered, a 50 percent select rate.
- JAG — 55 selected from 58 IPZ considered, a 94.8 percent select rate; one selected from three APZ considered, a 33.3 percent select rate.
- BSC — 98 selected from 113 IPZ considered, an 86.7 percent select rate; four selected from 10 APZ considered, a 40 percent select rate



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Air Force Times



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Hantavirus killed airman

Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas — An airman who was training at Fort Bliss for deployment to Iraq died of hantavirus, an Air Force official said Tuesday.

Senior Airman Leonard Hankerson Jr., 24, a security forces patrolman, died Feb. 11 at William Beaumont Army Hospital in El Paso. He was assigned to a squadron at Luke Air Force Base in Glendale, Ariz.

Autopsy results confirmed last week that Hankerson had the disease, said Lt. Col. John Paradis, a Luke Air Force Base spokesman. It is transmitted to humans when they inhale particles of dried urine, feces or saliva from an infected rodent.

He said it is unclear how or where Hankerson contracted hantavirus.

Fort Bliss officials have started cleaning barracks and other locations where Hankerson spent time to help prevent any spread of the virus.